

an overlaying sheet attached to the upper surface of the base sheet at a plurality of locations within the periphery of the cover;

the overlaying sheet sealed to the upper surface of the base sheet near the periphery of the cover to form an inflatable structure comprising the overlaying sheet and the base sheet;

a non-inflatable portion of the inflatable structure near a head end; and

an opening near a foot end for admitting warmed air to the inflatable structure;

whereby,

the opening, the inflatable structure, and the apertures allow air to inflate the cover and to be exhausted from the cover.

21. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 20, wherein the opening is into the center of the inflatable structure.

22. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 20, wherein the inflatable structure includes space between the overlaying sheet and the upper surface of the base sheet.

23. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 20, wherein the fibrous material is paper.

24. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 20, wherein the plurality of apertures have a density pattern in which the density of the apertures in the base sheet increases in a direction toward the periphery of the cover.

25. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 20, wherein the upper surface of the base sheet is a plastic material.

26. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 25, wherein the opening is into the center of the inflatable structure.

27. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 25, wherein the inflatable structure includes space between the overlaying sheet and the upper surface of the base sheet.

28. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 25, wherein the fibrous material is paper.
29. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 25, wherein the base sheet includes an upper layer of plastic material on the under layer, a surface of the upper layer being the upper surface.
30. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 29, wherein the inflatable structure includes space between the overlaying sheet and the upper surface of the base sheet.
31. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 29, wherein the is a fibrous material is paper.
32. (Unchanged) The cover of Claim 31, wherein the plurality of locations form the inflatable structure into a plurality of elongate, parallel, mutually conducting tubes.
33. (Unchanged) The cover of Claims 20 or 32, wherein the cover comprises a self-erecting structure.
34. (Unchanged) A combination for warming a person with the cover of Claim 20, the combination comprising:
an air hose having two ends;
means for connecting a first end of the air hose to the opening of the cover; and
a heater/blower connected to a second end of the air hose.
35. (Unchanged) An inflatable cover, comprising:
a flexible, multi-layer base sheet with a fibrous underlayer and an upper surface;
a flexible upper sheet attached to the upper surface of the base sheet;
the base sheet and upper sheet forming an inflatable structure;
the inflatable structure having two opposing ends;
a non-inflatable portion defining a recess near a first end of the inflatable structure;

an inflation inlet near a second end of the inflatable structure for admitting an inflating medium into the inflatable structure; and

a plurality of apertures opening through the base sheet for exhausting the inflating medium from the inflatable structure.

36. (Unchanged) The inflatable cover of Claim 35, wherein the first end is a head end of the inflatable structure and the non-inflatable recess is defined by a seal near the head end that seals the upper sheet to the base sheet at the head end.

37. (Unchanged) The inflatable cover of Claim 35, further including a plurality of seals between the base sheet and the upper sheet that form the inflatable structure into a plurality of elongate, parallel, mutually communicating chambers.

38. (Unchanged) The inflatable cover of Claim 37, wherein the inflatable structure is a self-erecting structure.

39. (Unchanged) The inflatable cover of Claim 38, the base sheet further including an upper layer of a flexible material attached to the fibrous under layer.

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to an Office Action dated February 14, 2000. Before this amendment claims 20-39 were pending. Claims 20-39 remain pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 21, 22, and 34 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) with respect to Roehr for reasons expressed in the Office Action of October 25, 1999, and ultimately to June 23, 1998. The June 23, 1998 Office Action references a December 8, 1997 Office Action, but that Action does not state any reasons for the Examiner's opinion that Roehr anticipates the claimed invention. However, in the June 23, 1998 Action the Examiner states that Roehr's invention discloses a foot and head ends to the blanket, and that a noninflatable portion is described by weld 15. The Examiner also states that Roehr discloses a sealed flaccid plastic foil which is pumped with air, and is inherently an inflatable structure. The Examiner states that